

THOMAS AQUINAS' TREATISE ON VIRTUE IN RELATION TO NATIONAL  
SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The discourse of saint Thomas Aquinas on Virtues is a monumental work on human activity. It is based on Aristotle's teaching on the final goal of humanity which is human happiness. With the Nigerian nation being practically besieged by sundry forms of vices right from the lowest rung of the societal ladder to the highest echelon of the society; and with corruption and the general atmosphere of insecurity, it is to say the least, a bad tale. This paper is therefore an attempt at making a review of Aquinas' Treatise as a handy guide to our treatment of virtues in relation to the Nigerian situation. It is contended here that once the citizenry who are basically adherents of the various religions (Islam, Christianity and Traditional) are made able to put into practice their different religious values, the ensuing transformation will not only engender peace and security but greater patriotism, dedication and transparency, which will inevitably lead to unity, progress and development. The methodology employed here is that of analytic exposition of Thomas Aquinas' ideologies in juxtaposition to the Nigerian experience. The principle of giving each person his/her due, allowing justice to prevail, respecting human dignity and maintaining some high sense of discipline at the individual and corporate levels are presented as means of curbing our societal ills.

*Keywords:* National Security, National Interest, Thomas Aquinas

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